

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A process for preparing optically active aldehydes or ketones which have from 3 to 25 carbon atoms and at least one racemizable stereocenter by catalytic dehydrogenation of the corresponding optically active primary or secondary alcohols in the gas phase in the presence of a catalyst.
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein a catalyst comprising at least one element selected from the group consisting of the elements calcium, zinc and copper is used.
3. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 [~~or 2~~], wherein the catalyst a ~~catalyst~~ comprising zinc oxide and calcium carbonate is used.
4. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst ~~any of claims 1 to 3, wherein a catalyst~~ whose active component comprises from 30 to 60% by weight of zinc oxide and from 40 to 70% by weight of calcium carbonates is used.
5. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 3 [~~or 4~~], wherein the calcium carbonate is present in the calcite modification.
6. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ for preparing branched or unbranched open-chain or monocyclic aldehydes or ketones.
7. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 for preparing aldehydes or ketones which have a stereocenter in the α and/or β position relative to the carbonyl group.
8. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 for preparing optically active 2-methylbutan-1-al, 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-al, 3,7-dimethyloctan-1-al, 8-p-menthen-3-one, p-menthan-3-one, 2-methylcyclohexanone, 3-methylcyclohexanone, 2-methylcyclopentanone, 3-methylcyclopentanone, 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone or 2,3-dimethylcyclohexanone.

9. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 for preparing optically active citronellal from optically active citronellol.
10. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein the enantiomeric excess (ee) of the aldehyde or ketone obtained corresponds to at least 90% of the enantiomeric excess of the alcohol used.
11. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the dehydrogenation is carried out at a temperature in the range from 250 to 600°C.
12. (Currently amended) A process for preparing optically active menthol by cyclization of citronellal prepared according to ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 to form isopulegol and subsequent hydrogenation.
13. cancelled
14. (New) The process according to claim 2, wherein the catalyst comprising zinc oxide and calcium carbonate is used.
15. (New) The process according to claim 14, wherein the catalyst-whose active component comprises from 30 to 60% by weight of zinc oxide and from 40 to 70% by weight of calcium carbonates is used.
16. (New) The process according to claim 15, wherein the calcium carbonate is present in the calcite modification.
17. (New) The process according to claim 16 for preparing branched or unbranched open-chain or monocyclic aldehydes or ketones.
18. (New) The process according to claim 17 for preparing aldehydes or ketones which have a stereocenter in the α and/or β position relative to the carbonyl group.
19. (New) The process according to claim 18 for preparing optically active 2-methylbutan-1-al, 3,7-dimethyloct-6-en-1-al, 3,7-dimethyloctan-1-al, 8-p-menthen-3-one, p-menthan-3-one,

- 2-methylcyclohexanone, 3-methylcyclohexanone, 2-methylcyclopentanone, 3-
- methylcyclopentanone, 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone or 2,3-dimethylcyclohexanone.